

**United States**  
**Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

*Miles City Field Office*

**Atlantis Water Pipeline**  
**ROW**

Environmental Assessment (EA)  
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0172-EA

*For Further Information Please Contact:*

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Miles City, Montana 59301  
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BLM



## **LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION:**

Principal Meridian, Roosevelt County, Montana  
T. 28 N., R. 56 E.,  
Section 34, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Atlantis Water Solutions proposes to obtain a right-of-way (ROW) across 1,780 feet of public land to install up to five pipelines within a 15 feet wide ROW. The project involves installing a pump house on private land along the Missouri River in which water would be transported via a 12 inch pipeline for 1.5 miles to a fresh water deport located 2 miles east of Culbertson, MT. Atlantis proposes to install up to 5 pipelines for the project to be economically sound and is required to install multiple pipelines by the State of Montana for environmental reasons. The volume of water to be transported would be approximately 80,000 barrels of water per day (BPD). The proposed pipeline route is the most direct and logical location for the pipeline and they have received authorization from the other landowners (private) in which the pipeline would cross. A portion of the pipeline(s) would cross Federal land and would require a right-of-way area of 15 feet wide, 1,780 feet long, and consist of 0.61 acres, more or less. The term is requested for 30 years and be renewable. They are also requesting a short term ROW for a temporary construction/work area. The short term ROW would be 50 feet wide, 1,780 feet long, and consist of 2.01 acres, more or less. The short term ROW would be 25 feet from the center line in both directions to total the width of 50 feet. The short term ROW would be issued for a term of three years. They would use existing access roads to access the pipeline right-of-way on BLM land.

A trencher would be used to install the pipeline(s). The nominal depth of the pipeline(s) would be 48 inches. No clearing or grading of the proposed route would be needed. Construction activities would cease if precipitation occurs and would not resume until the ground is sufficiently dry to eliminate surface damage by construction equipment. No known hazardous materials would be used during construction or any time on the right-of-ways. No site clearing or topsoil removal would be necessary. Once constructed, the pipeline would require minimal expenditures for operation and maintenance. Periodic inspections would be conducted Atlantis Water Solutions to ensure the line's structural integrity. Access would be from Highway 16 and no new roads would be needed. The line would be operated on a year around basis. Right-of-way construction and use would be monitored by the BLM. There would be no blading and the disturbed areas would be reseeded after construction.

Termination activities for the Federal surface area would be conducted in much the same manner as construction activities. Access would be available along the same route.

The right-of-ways would be issued pursuant to 43 CFR 2800, Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761). The right-of-ways would be subject to the terms and conditions in 43 CFR 2800, the terms and conditions and stipulations specified below, and mitigations set forth in the application. They requested a right-of-way term for a period of 30 years and be renewable. Atlantis Water Solution would be subject to cost recover and rental fees as determined according to the regulations found at 43 CFR 2800. The pipeline is proposed to be constructed in the fall of 2013 or spring of 2014 once all water

permits are acquired. The pipeline would be used on a year around basis to transport water to the fresh water depot.

The standard stipulations for cultural and/or paleontological resource protection and toxic substances would be made a part of the right-of-way grant, as would the standard stipulation that all activities associated with the right-of-way would be conducted within the authorized limits of the grant. The applicant shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the right-of-way. There would be no construction or routine maintenance when the soils are too wet. The holder of this right-of-way grant or the holder's successor in interest shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and the regulations of the Secretary of the Interior issued pursuant thereto. The right-of-way would be subject to mitigations set forth in the application and plan of development. The holder shall coordinate with the parties holding authorized rights on the adjacent and affected lands.

